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Why did the mark fall

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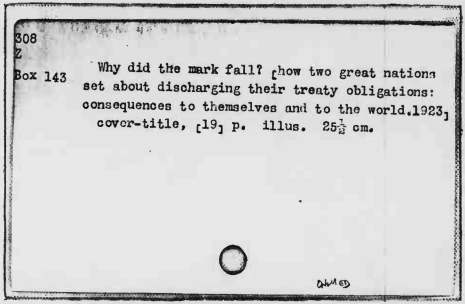
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Box 143

WHY DID THE MARK FALL?

HOW TWO GREAT NATIONS SET ABOUT DISCHARGING THEIR TREATY OBLIGATIONS. — CONSEQUENCES TO THEMSELVES AND TO THE WORLD.

FRANKFORT

MAY 10 1871. — *Invaded France signs the Treaty of Frankfort with Germany.*

Germany strips her of two provinces that have long been French, Alsace and Lorraine. France pledges herself to pay 5 milliards of francs within 3 years. The war, which had been fought entirely on French soil, cost Germany but 900 million francs. French territory to be occupied by German troops until complete payment has been effected.

France then has a debt of 26 milliards of francs, or 13 times her revenue from taxation. Her population is reduced to 36 million inhabitants.

How did the newborn French Republic fulfil her obligations ?

LB Nov. 14, 1923

VERSAILLES

JUNE 28 1919. — *Conquered Germany, after declaring war on France, and having once more invaded her, signs the Treaty of Versailles.*

France deprives Germany of no parcel of her territory. Germany pledges herself to pay 62 milliards of gold marks for the reparation of material and personal damage inflicted. France waives her claim to war costs, amounting to 200 milliards of francs.

Again the war was fought on French territory, which sustained all the damage. Germany has no foreign debt. Her population is 62 million inhabitants. Not one of her factories is destroyed ; her force of production is unimpaired.

How does the newborn German Republic fulfil her obligations ?

FRANKFORT
1871

What the Head of the French Government has to say about the Treaty :

" Every day's delay in the revival of French trade and industry injures France a hundred times more than she could benefit from any alleviation of the peace preliminaries, obtained at the cost of further agitation. "

THIERS.

VERSAILLES
1919

What the Head of the German Government has to say about the Treaty :

" The Treaty is impossible of execution, even if great concessions are made to us. To my mind, it is a scrap of paper to which I will not put my name. "

SCHEIDEMANN.

FRANKFORT 1871

Private associations appeal to the Country for a subscription that shall help France to pay her debt.

Collections are made by the nurses. Carriages drive along the streets to collect gifts of gold and silver ware.

VERSAILLES 1919

Private associations in Germany put up countless posters urging her people forcibly to resist the application of the Treaty.

FRANKFORT 1871

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FRANKFORT
1871

Posters are put up in every French City urging the Population to contribute to the liberation of the Territory.

VIII^e Arrondissement de Paris

SOUSCRIPTION PATRIOTIQUE

DES

FEMMES DE FRANCE

La France veut la libération de son territoire.

C'est une question de patriotisme et d'honneur national.

Le Comité d'action du VIII^e Arrondissement, formé de 12 dames et de 12 hommes, dont la composition a été précédemment publiée (*Moniteur universel* du 6 Février 1872), accomplit chaque jour son œuvre et va se mettre en relations directes avec la population tout entière.

Mais il fait un autre, ici, un appel public à tous les habitants de l'Arrondissement et les informe que la Mairie rue d'Anjou-Saint-Honoré, n° 11) reçoit aussi les sommes et les engagements, et que les bonds sont ensuite versés à la Banque de France.

Chaque offrande, quelque modeste qu'elle soit, aura le même prix aux yeux du Pays, dont on pourvoit la délivrance.

ON PEUT faire de suite un versement définitif.

ON PEUT faire plusieurs versements successifs.

ON PEUT prendre un engagement conditionnel, réalisable seulement si la Souscription atteint 500 millions, et avec des délais.

Les noms de tous les donateurs seront inscrits, à la Mairie, sur un registre qui sera le Livre d'Honneur de l'Arrondissement.

Ce livre consacrera l'union et la solidarité de tous.

Paris, le 15 Février 1872.

POUR LES DEUX COMITÉS :

In addition to State Loans, Subscriptions are opened throughout the country. The Women of France collect funds, which they pay into the Bank of France.

VERSAILLES
1919

No sooner is the Treaty signed than the German newspapers distribute posters dissuading the population from discharging their obligations, and reiterating their calls for vengeance.

Rache!

Deutsches Volk! Heute wird im Spiegelsaal von Versailles der Schandfrieden unterzeichnet. Vergiß es ihnen nicht!

Wo im glorreichen Jahre 1871 das deutsche Kaisertum in alter Herrlichkeit erstand, wird heute die deutsche Ehre zu Grabe getragen. Vergiß es ihnen nicht!

In rastloser Arbeit wird sich das deutsche Volk wieder emporarbeiten, um sich den Platz unter den Nationen zurückzuerobern, der ihm zukommt!

Dann Rache für die Schmach von 1919!

TRANSLATION

Vengeance! People of Germany! To-day in the Hall of Mirrors, at Versailles, the infamous peace is being signed. Never forget what they have done to you! On the very spot where in the glorious year 1871 the German Empire arose in its splendour, German Honour lies buried. Never forget what they have done to you! By strenuous labour the German People will rise once more to their proper place among the Nations. Then, Vengeance for the Shame of 1919!

FRANKFORT
1871

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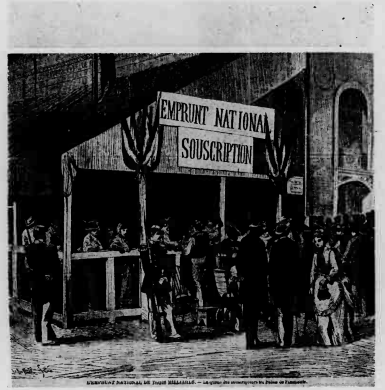
Every Certificate of Subscription is looked upon as a hall-mark of patriotism of which any Frenchman may well be proud.



900.000 subscribers throng the banks to subscribe to the National Loan. They offer 43 milliards where but 3 are asked of them.

VERSAILLES 1919

Model of the Certificate handed to every subscriber of money to fight against the Treaty.

600 Organisations are formed in Germany to oppose the payment of the sums due.

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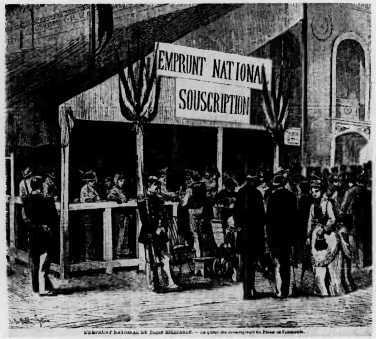

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VERSAILLES 1919

Model of the Certificate handed to every subscriber of money to fight against the Treaty.

Der Friedensvertrag"!! (Unterzeichnung durch Hermann Müller)

Urkunde Nr.

Der Inhaber dieser Urkunde

Mark

Der geschäftsführende Ausschuß.

600 Organisations are formed in Germany to oppose the payment of the sums due.

FRANKFORT
1871

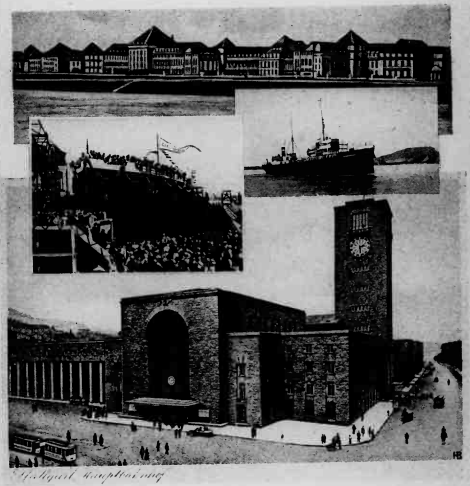
All the resources of French thrift are applied to the settlement of the War Indemnity.

The works of public utility necessitated by the Treaty of Frankfort are undertaken only after the 5 milliards of francs due to the Germans have been paid up in full.

French Cities postpone their schemes of improvement. — Paris gives up the Haussmann plan. The **Tuileries**, *the* **Cour des Comptes**, *the* **Château de Saint-Cloud** *are not rebuilt.*

VERSAILLES
1919

Germany, far from appealing for private funds, encourages their flight to foreign countries.



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FRANKFORT
1871

SIX MONTHS *before the date fixed by the Germans, France has paid her debt and international relations have resumed their normal course.*

France owes Germany :		She pays :	
On the signing of the treaty	500.000.000 fr.	*October 20, 1871*	1.000.000.000 fr.
During the year 1871	1.000.000.000 fr.	*March 6, 1872*	1.000.000.000 fr.
May 1, 1872	500.000.000 fr.	*December 16, 1872*	1.000.000.000 fr.
March 2, 1874	3.000.000.000 fr.	*April 16, 1873*	1.000.000.000 fr.
Interest	301.145.078 fr.	*September 5, 1873*	1.301.145.078 fr.
Total	5.301.145.078 fr.	*Total*	5.301.145.078 fr.

(Exclusive of War Levies imposed on the several Towns and Food Supplies for the Army of Occupation.)

On hearing of the success of the Loan, Bismarck exclaimed :

" Had I known, I would have demanded of the French 25 milliards."

VERSAILLES
1919

FOUR YEARS *after the signing of the Treaty, the Reparations Commission record at their every meeting some default on the part of Germany.*

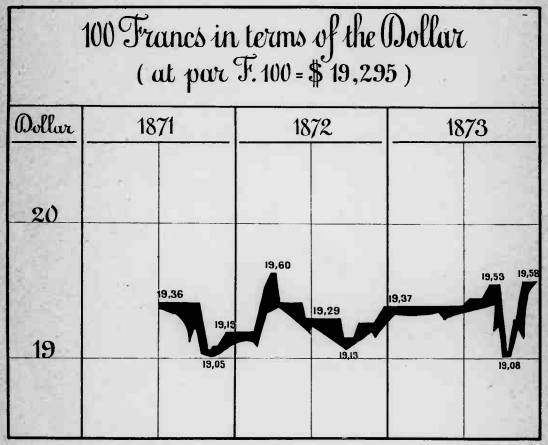
Germany owes to France :	She has paid but :
62.400.000.000 Gold Marks *(Under the Schedule made out at London and at Spa.)*	1.779.745.000 Gold Marks *(Including Armistice Deliveries, Payment in Kind and Army of Occupation Cost.)*

GERMANY'S EVASIONS, AS OFFICIALLY RECORDED BY THE REPARATIONS COMMISSION DOWN TO JANUARY 26 1923 :

June 23, 1920. — Coal. — Insufficient deliveries.
March 23, 1921. — Refusal to pay 1 milliard gold marks.
May 3, 1921. — Refusal to pay over to the Bank of France the above sum, the delivery of which had been postponed to April 30.
December 26, 1922. — Deliveries of Wood. — Failure to fill the orders placed by France in 1922.
January 8 and 9, 1923. — Coal. — Insufficient deliveries to France in 1922.
January 26, 1923. — Germany is in default as regards all her obligations towards France.

FRANKFORT
1871

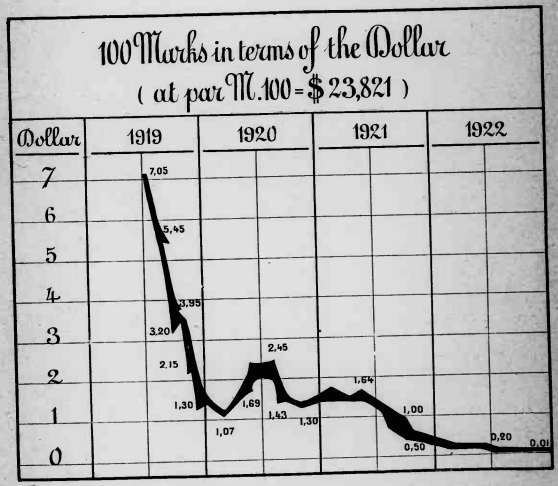
The Franc, after a very slight fall, quickly recovers its pre-war value.



Its trifling fluctuations cause no widespread perturbation, thanks to the wisdom of the French financiers and statesmen.

VERSAILLES
1919

The Mark falls continuously.



Its fluctuations injure the whole world, which trusted the word of Germany, and the wisdom of her financiers and statesmen.

FRANKFORT
1871

SIX MONTHS *before the appointed date, the last German Battalion leaves French territory.*

From that day onwards, in order to give the World a proof of her peaceful activities, France prepares the Universal Exhibition of 1878, in which all Nations, including Germany, are invited to participate.

VERSAILLES
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FOUR YEARS *after the taking effect of the Treaty, the Allies are compelled to ensure the control of German iron-works.*

A French sentry mounts guard over the statue of Herr Krupp, who cast all the German guns.

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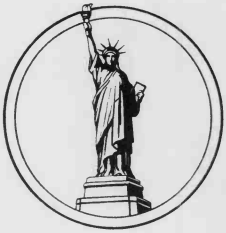

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